

In The Claims:

Please enter the following claim amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a medical implant comprising:
placing a medical implant into a rotatable drum;
tumbling the medical implant by rotating the drum about a longitudinal axis of the drum
~~for a predetermined amount of time;~~
placing therapeutic into the drum by moving the therapeutic through a channel positioned
in the drum, the channel containing a plurality of orifices; and
interfacing a the therapeutic with the tumbling medical implant.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: drying the therapeutic on the medical implant.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein drying the therapeutic on the medical implant includes spraying an inert gas into the drum.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: suspending the medical implants above an internal surface of the drum.
5. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having a bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater, the medical implant having a
masking material on at least one of its surfaces;
rotating the drum about an axis to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant; and
removing the medical implant from the drum.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
collecting therapeutic in a therapeutic recovery reservoir, fluidly attached to the drum.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having a bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;
~~removing the medical implant from the drum;~~
forcing a compressible fluid from a compressible fluid source into the drum to dry the therapeutic;
re-circulating the compressible fluid in the drum; and
waiting until the therapeutic on the medical implant is dry before removing the medical implant from the drum.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein spraying the therapeutic into the drum is repeated at least once.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having a bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;
~~removing the medical implant from the drum;~~
forcing a compressible fluid from a compressible fluid source into the drum;
re-circulating the compressible fluid in the drum;
waiting until the therapeutic on the medical implant is dry before removing the medical implant from the drum; and

heating the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source prior to forcing the compressible fluid into the drum.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source is heated to a temperature in the range of 20 to 70 degrees centigrade.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the compressible fluid in the compressible fluid source is heated to a temperature associated with a working temperature of the therapeutic.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having a bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis ~~axis~~, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;
drawing a compressible fluid into the drum; and
removing the medical implant from the drum.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having a bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;
heating the rotatable drum after spraying the therapeutic into the drum; and
removing the medical implant from the drum.

14. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the pan coater is provided with a compressible fluid suspension system that forces a compressible fluid into the drum with a force sufficient to maintain the medical implant aloft in the drum.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the compressible fluid suspension system uses an inert gas to maintain the medical implants aloft.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising: periodically activating the compressible fluid suspension system.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
passing therapeutic through the orifices; and
passing compressible fluid through the orifices.
19. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum having a bottom and a wall;
placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
rotating the drum about an axis, to tumble the medical implant, the drum containing a plurality of orifices in the wall;
spraying a first therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant;
spraying a second therapeutic into the drum after spraying the first therapeutic into the drum, the second therapeutic different from the first therapeutic;
~~removing the medical implant from the drum;~~ and
recycling therapeutic that did not adhere to the implant during spraying.
20. (Withdrawn): A computer readable medium storing instructions for operating a pan coater for coating a medical implant, the instructions comprising directions for the pan coater to: rotate a drum to tumble a medical implant; spray a first therapeutic into the drum through a spray nozzle while rotating the drum; and stop the drum from rotating.

21. (Withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 20, storing further directions for the pan coater to: force a compressible fluid into the drum after spraying the first therapeutic into the drum.
22. (Withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 21, storing further directions for the pan coater to: heat the compressible fluid prior to forcing the compressible fluid into the drum.
23. (Withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 20 storing further directions for the pan coater to: draw a compressible fluid out of the drum through a compressible fluid exhaust opening.
24. (Withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 20 storing further directions for the pan coater to: spray a second therapeutic into the drum after a medical implant has been placed into the drum.
25. (Previously Presented) A method for applying a coating to a medical implant comprising:
 - providing a pan coater, the pan coater including a drum rotatable about a longitudinal axis having a wall and a bottom, the wall having a plurality of orifices;
 - placing a medical implant in the drum of the pan coater;
 - injecting a compressible fluid into the drum with a force sufficient to maintain the medical implant aloft in the drum to tumble the medical implant;
 - spraying a therapeutic into the drum to coat the medical implant; and
 - removing the medical implant from the drum.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the compressible fluid is an inert gas.
27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the compressible fluid is also for drying the therapeutic on the medical implant.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the compressible fluid is periodically injected into the drum. ~~further comprising: periodically injecting the compressible fluid into the drum.~~

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein interfacing the therapeutic with the tumbling implant includes tumbling the implant into a vat of therapeutic.